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THE JOURNAL OF THE ANTHROPOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

VOL. XXXIV. 1904

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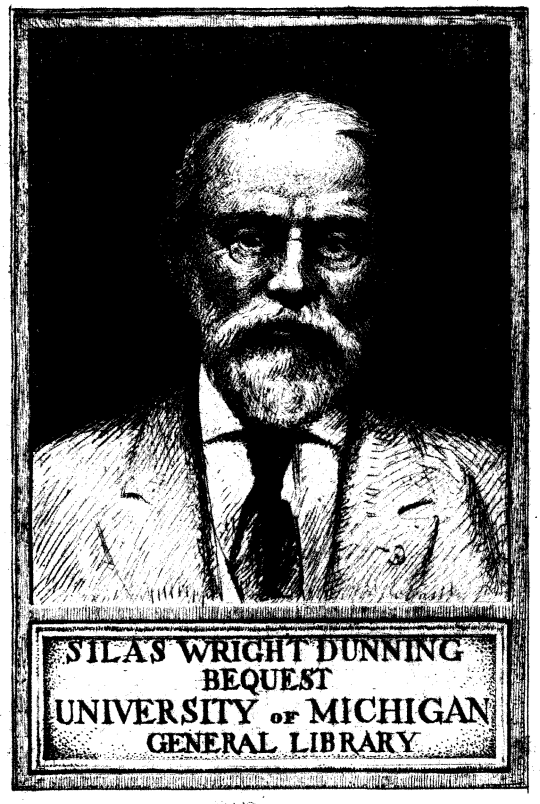

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JOURNAL

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CONTAINING

THE TRANSACTIONS AND PROCEEDINGS
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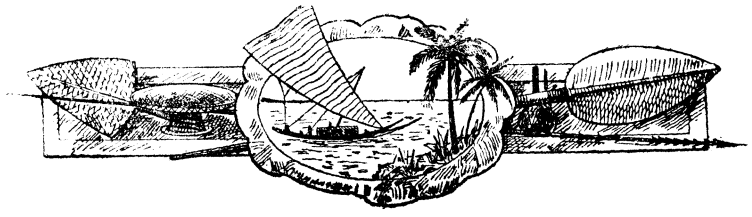

MEMOIRS OF THE BERNICE PAUAHI BISHOP MUSEUM OF POLYNESIAN ETHNOLOGY AND NATURAL HISTORY, VOL. I. No. 4. ANCIENT HAWAIIAN STONE IMPLEMENTS, BY WILLIAM BRIGHAM, A.M. PUBLISHED AT HONOLULU, H.I. AT THE BISHOP MUSEUM PRESS, 1902.

A VERY important memoir under the above title has just been issued from the Museum Press at Honolulu, the author of which has had a long experience of thirty-six years in intimate contact with the Hawaiians, and has a thorough knowledge of their ethnology. It is on this personal knowledge that he bases his descriptions and suggestions, and he has for examples to illustrate his remarks excellent plates of the large and valuable collections of stone implements gathered by him and others in the well-known museum with the much hyphenated name. He recounts in a most interesting preface how he has talked with those who witnessed the great social change in 1820, when asked says, "one era was at an end, another was on the threshold," and how he has rescued from oblivion many an almost forgotten custom and fact. The information is the more valuable as it has been derived in nearly all cases from original sources, and has not been compiled from the books and reports of the early voyagers. A series of similar publications is promised on wood-work, mats, and baskets, house building and a large number of interesting ethnological subjects, and we can only hope that they will be as full and complete as the chapter under notice.* The writer commences by pointing out that until little more than a century ago stone, bone, or shell served as the material for all tools, and that our information on the character of the stone-work of the Polynesian area is quite insufficient at the present term to profitably discuss the probable evolution of the weapons, tools, and ornaments which are found wrought in the material.

He points out that the mere existence of such an article as a canoe argues the possession of effective cutting tools, and that local

* A most interesting and beautifully illustrated memoir on the feather-work of the Hawaiians has already appeared as part of this series.—ED.

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